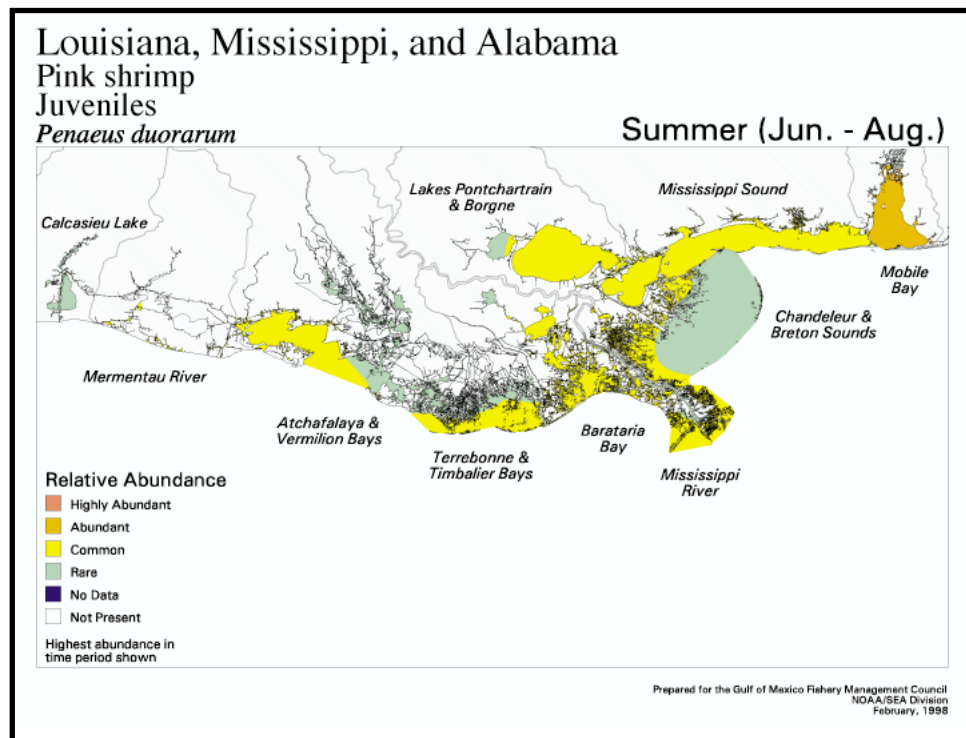


WEB-ACCESSIBLE NOS ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT PRODUCTS FOR COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCE MANAGERS

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U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment

BACKGROUND

Federal and state governments have recognized that in order to sustain U.S. fisheries it is important that their habitat is maintained. On October 11, 1996, President Clinton signed the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Among its provisions is a new requirement that all Fisheries Management Plans must be amended to include the description, identification, conservation, and enhancement of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The EFH products will be used by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with other Federal agencies concerning any activity or proposed activity that may adversely impact EFH. The goal of this project was to develop a user-friendly interface and query tool to these Web-based maps, tables, reports, and other products, as they become available.

NOAA's Biogeography Program has been collecting and synthesizing information on U.S. coastal and ocean species distributions, abundance, and life history characteristics and developing data products since 1980. These products address over 600 species of fishes, invertebrates, reptiles, seabirds, and marine mammals in the coastal and ocean waters of the United States. The data associated with the map products range from a synthesis of existing maps to raw catch data (for example, 1.8 million catch records from the Gulf of Mexico region (1985-1997) was recently provided by state agencies).

Other government entities such as the Minerals Management Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Navy, and many coastal state resource management agencies are already using Biogeography Program EFH fisheries products for assessment purposes. The Biogeography Program has completed many products of particular relevance to the EFH work, including species distribution and abundance maps (for the estuaries and offshore), species life history attribute tables, habitat suitability models and other related products. Many of these map and table products are already available on the Web, and the Biogeography Program is continually developing and making more available as they are completed.

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NOAA'S BIOGEOGRAPHY PROGRAM

PROJECTS PRODUCTS TOOLS

Products Menu

- Benthic Habitats of Puerto Rico and the USVI
- Team Publications
- Data
 - Aerial Photography
 - ELMR
- Maps
 - Hawaii DEMs
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Estuarine Living Marine Resources

ENTER SEARCH KEYS

Region:
GULF OF MEXICO
MIDATLANTIC
NORTH ATLANTIC
SOUTHEAST
WEST COAST



Estuary:
ALL
BARNECAT BAY
BUZZARDS BAY
CHESAPEAKE BAY
CHESTER RIVER

Species:
ALL
ALABAMA SHAD
ALEWIFE
AMERICAN EEL
AMERICAN LOBSTER
AMERICAN PLAICE
AMERICAN SAND LANCE
AMERICAN SHAD

Life Stage:
ALL
ADULTS
EGGS
JUVENILES
LARVAE
SPAWNING

Salinity Zone:
ALL
0-0.5 ppt
0.5-5 ppt
5-15 ppt
15-25 ppt
25 ppt

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Last Modified: November 14, 2002 11:57

STATEMENT OF WORK

The project included the following tasks:

Task 1. A web-interface to access and conduct simple searches of online essential fish habitat assessment products (coastal fish and invertebrate species distribution maps, life history tables, and data sets).

Task 2. Fish and invertebrate distribution and relative abundance maps and tables for the U.S. East Coast and Gulf of Mexico regions. The information on the maps will be organized into different formats, based on the data sets. These maps will be continually loaded in FY00/01 as they become available.

Task 3. Generate life history tables for fishes and invertebrates on their biological, reproductive, and habitat attributes, by life stage.

Task 4. Complete updates of the Estuarine Living Marine Resource (ELMR) distribution and abundance data (e.g., Massachusetts, Georgia).

Task 5. Generate mapped results of habitat suitability models (e.g., oyster habitat in Pensacola Bay), to aid in defining essential habitat areas in data-limited estuarine and marine environments.

PRODUCTS

Estuarine Living Marine Resources Database - Updated ELMR relative abundance data can be downloaded via a user-friendly web-interface in a variety of formats using search keys, including: region, estuary, species, life history and salinity zone.

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/products/elmr/>

Essential Fish Habitat Maps - These maps were built upon the updated ELMR database and portray the distributions of several high-priority species from the Gulf of Mexico, Southeast Atlantic and Caribbean.

Caribbean:

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/projects/efh/carib-efh/>

Gulf of Mexico:

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/projects/efh/gom-efh/>

South Atlantic:

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/projects/efh/sa-efh/>

Regional Assessments - Several regional assessments have been completed and their results made available via the internet. These include mapped results of habitat suitability modeling in several Florida bays and Galveston Bay, Texas.

Florida ELMR Project:

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/projects/assess/flelmr/>

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/products/pubs/index.shtml?id=18&abstract=1>

Modeling Nekton Habitat Use in Galveston Bay:

<http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/products/pubs/indes.shtml?id=17&abstractt=1>

<http://biogeo.noa.noaa.gov/products/pubs/galvefh.pdf>

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